

Supplemental Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
U.S. Application No. 09/987,634

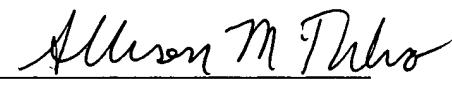
**REMARKS**

Claims 1-10 are all the claims pending in the application. In the December 23, 2003 Advisory Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 2 and 5-9 are allowable. Accordingly, Applicant has rewritten claims 2, 7, 8 and 9 into independent form, and has canceled rejected claims 1, 3, 4 and 10, without prejudice or disclaimer, to place the Application in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Date: January 12, 2004 (since January 11, 2004 fell on a Sunday)